

REMARKS

Applicants have amended their claims to clarify the invention. Claims 1, 9, 17, and 25, are amended herein to recite adjusting a pre-emphasis level of a signal provided using a communication link based upon information wirelessly read from a memory disposed on a connector on an end of the communication link. Support can be found in the Specification on Page 11 at Lines 8-10.

No new matter has been entered. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Claims 17-24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 as being directed to non-statutory matter. Claim 17, is amended herein to recite use of a non-transitory computer readable medium.

Claims 1, 2, 4-7, 9-10, 12-18, and 20-30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over DeRolf et al. (U.S. Pub. No. 2002/0104039) in view of P.B. Gilliland et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,554,492), and further in view of Phillips hitag1 stick transponder ("hitag").

Claims 3, 11, and 19, stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over DeRolf et al., in view of Gilliland et al., and in further view of Phillips hitag1 and Cecchi et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,466,626).

Neither DeRolf et al., nor Gilliland et al., nor Hitag, singly or in combination, teach adjusting a pre-emphasis level of a signal provided by a communication link based upon information wirelessly read from a memory disposed on a connector disposed on an end of the communication link, as recited by claims 1, 9, 17, and 25, as amended herein.

Furthermore, Applicants respectfully submit that neither DeRolf et al., nor Gilliland et

al, nor hitag, singly or in combination, teach a communication link comprising a connector disposed on an end, and a passive transponder disposed on the connector, wherein the passive transponder includes a memory comprising information including the length of the communication link, as recited by claims 1, 9, 17, and 25, as amended herein. The Examiner posits that DeRolf et al. recite such a teaching. In that regard, the Examiner avers that DeRolf teaches use of a GBIC connection, which corresponds to the connector element of claims 1, 9, 17, and 25. Applicants respectfully disagree. More specifically, DeRolf et al. nowhere teaches use of any sort of "GBIC connection" or "GBIC connector."

The Examiner further avers that a GBIC card taught by DeRolf et al. corresponds to a transponder disposed on a connector portion of a communication link. Applicants once again respectfully disagree. In FIG. 1, DeRolf et al. teach use of 12 GBIC cards, namely elements 24a, 24b, 24c, 24d, 24e, 24f, 24g, 24h, 24i, 24j, 24k, and 24l. In each instance, the GBIC card is depicted as a first subassembly portion of second subassembly, where that second subassembly is INTERNAL to an assembly. For example, GBIC cards 24a and 24b are each disposed within Host Bus Adapters 14a and 14b, respectively, wherein Host Bus Adapters are disposed within host computer 2. Needless to say, both GBIC cards 24a and 24b are internal to different host bus adapters, which in turn are internal to one host computer.

Each of the other 10 GBIC cards shown in FIG. 1 is disposed within a Host Bus Adapter (GBICs 24e and 24f), an IPORT (GBICs 24g and 24h), or within a DPORT (GBICs 24i and 24j), or within an interface (GBICs 24c, 24d, 24k, and 24l). Host bus adapter 18a and 18b are disposed with a host computer 4. IPORTs 22a and 22b are disposed within Fabric 10. Interfaces 16a and 16b are disposed within Storage Device 6, and Interfaces 20a and 20b are

disposed within Storage Device 8. In each and every instance, a GBIC taught by DeRolf et al. is a first subassembly disposed within a second subassembly, wherein the second subassembly is disposed within either a host computer, a storage device, or a communication fabric.

Applicants respectfully submit that DeRolf et al. nowhere teaches a transponder comprising a memory, wherein the transponder is disposed on a connector disposed on an end of a communication link, as required by Applicants' claims 1, 9, 17, and 25.

Neither Gilliland, nor hitag, nor Cecchi et al., cure the deficiencies of DeRolf et al. Neither DeRolf et al., nor Gilliland, nor hitag, nor Cecchi et al., singly or in combination, teach a communication link comprising a length, an end, a connector disposed on said end, and a passive transponder disposed on said connector, wherein the passive transponder includes a memory comprising information including the length, as recited by claims 1, 9, 17, and 25, as amended herein. Moreover, neither DeRolf et al., nor Gilliland, nor hitag, nor Cecchi et al., singly or in combination, teach adjusting a pre-emphasis level of a signal provided by a communication link based upon information wirelessly read from a memory disposed on a connector disposed on an end of the communication link, as recited by claims 1, 9, 17, and 25, as amended herein,

Claims 2-7, as amended herein, depend, directly or indirectly, from claim 1, as amended herein. Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, fourth paragraph, "a claim in dependent form shall be construed to incorporate by reference all the limitations of the claim to which it refers." "If an independent claim is nonobvious under 35 U.S.C. 103, then any claim depending therefrom is nonobvious." MPEP 2143.03; *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 USPQ2d 1596 (Fed.Cir. 1988).

Applicants respectfully submit that claims 2-8, as amended herein, are patentable over DeRolf

et al., Gilliland, hitag, and/or Cecchi et al.

Claims 10-16, as amended herein, depend, directly or indirectly, from claim 9, as amended herein. Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, fourth paragraph, "a claim in dependent form shall be construed to incorporate by reference all the limitations of the claim to which it refers." "If an independent claim is nonobvious under 35 U.S.C. 103, then any claim depending therefrom is nonobvious." MPEP 2143.03; *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 USPQ2d 1596 (Fed.Cir. 1988). Applicants respectfully submit that claims 10-16, as amended herein, are patentable over DeRolf et al., Gilliland, hitag, and/or Cecchi et al.

Claims 18-24, as amended herein, depend, directly or indirectly, from claim 17, as amended herein. Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, fourth paragraph, "a claim in dependent form shall be construed to incorporate by reference all the limitations of the claim to which it refers." "If an independent claim is nonobvious under 35 U.S.C. 103, then any claim depending therefrom is nonobvious." MPEP 2143.03; *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 USPQ2d 1596 (Fed.Cir. 1988). Applicants respectfully submit that claims 18-24, as amended herein, are patentable over DeRolf et al., Gilliland, hitag, and/or Cecchi et al.

Claims 26-30, as amended herein, depend, directly or indirectly, from claim 25, as amended herein. Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, fourth paragraph, "a claim in dependent form shall be construed to incorporate by reference all the limitations of the claim to which it refers." "If an independent claim is nonobvious under 35 U.S.C. 103, then any claim depending therefrom is nonobvious." MPEP 2143.03; *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 USPQ2d 1596 (Fed.Cir. 1988). Applicants respectfully submit that claims 26-30, as amended herein, are patentable over DeRolf et al., Gilliland, hitag, and/or Cecchi et al.

Having dealt with all of the outstanding objections and/or rejections of the claims, Applicants submit that the application as amended is in condition for allowance, and an allowance at an early date is respectfully solicited. In the event there are any fee deficiencies or additional fees are payable, please charge them, or credit an overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 170055.

Respectfully submitted,

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